



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME)

Department A - COSME, H2020 SME and EMFF
Unit A1 - COSME

Brussels, 21 March 2018

LETTER OF SUPPORT

I, Natalia MARTINEZ PARAMO. Head of Unit A1 – COSME of the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME), established by the European Commission, hereby confirm that EASME supports, as funding authority, the activities for the project entitled:

**“EASME/H2020/INNO/2017/002-''Accompanying study to the pilot action
'European SME Innovation Associate pilot'”**

The project aims to provide the European Union with an assessment of the experimental pilot action "European SME innovation associate - pilot". This action supports mobility of experienced researchers to small and medium-sized enterprise experiencing shortages in access to skills for innovation activities. The results of this project will contribute to a decision for an eventual replication or scale-up of the experiment.

The contract for the study was awarded to a consortium led by CARSA and including RAMBOLL Management consulting, LE EUROPE Limited, ECORY Brussels and DIW ECON GMBH.

As part of this evaluation, the consortium is asked to administer questionnaires and conduct interviews with relevant stakeholders, beneficiaries, associates and experts who can provide significant insight to the assessment of the first European SME Innovation Associate pilot.

Access by the consultants to relevant actors, data, information and experience is vital for the development of the study. This information will allow the consortium to provide recommendations to the European Commission on how to address better the challenge of SMEs' access to specialised skills for innovation for an improved design of specific actions.

I would therefore very much appreciate it if you could facilitate the work of the contractor, in particular when they contact you with regard to the collection of information through the questionnaire or for an interview request.

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Would you require additional information, you may contact the EASME Call Coordinator Ms. Idaira ROBAYNA ALFONSO, (+32-229-55792, Idaira.Robayna-alfonso@ec.europa.eu).

This project has successfully applied for EU funding and the project's activities are in pursuit of implementing the accompanying study funded by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 programme.

Yours faithfully,

Natalia MARTINEZ PARAMO